



Town of Darien

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Health Department Quarterly Report to the Board of Selectmen April 6, 2010

The following is a summary of recent health Department activities and goals:

1. Ordinance and Regulation revisions

A comprehensive review of existing health department ordinances and regulations pertaining to food, wells, subsurface sewage disposal, public pools, barbershops / hair & nail salons and lead paint poisoning prevention has been completed and the proposed revisions which had been presented to the Board of Selectmen in January was approved by the RTM.

The only ordinance remaining that needs updating is the ordinance on “Clam Harvesting.” The Health Department has been charged with maintaining a permit program for recreational shellfishing, but the Town Code is silent on the commercial activities. We will be working with Town Council and anticipate making recommendations within the next few months.

2. H1N1 Flu Clinics

The Health Department held 15 H1N1 flu clinics and administered 1350 doses from November through March. All shots were free to the public and were administered exclusively by our [one day a week] Public Health Nurse together with two or three other nurses. The State reimbursed us at the rate of \$15.00 per dose which far exceeded our costs and added significantly to our “flu-shot” fund.

No further clinics are scheduled at this time.

3. Food Program

All Annual Permits expired on December 31 and were renewed in a timely fashion – no late fees were assessed this year, which is a very good thing.

Inspections are current – “Ratings” should be posted. If you don’t see them at your favorite eatery, either ask them where it is or let us know.

We have begun presenting our “Food Handler’s Training Program” which we developed as a half day power-point /video session to supplement any training programs provided to employees by the restaurants.

4. Health Screening Clinics

In cooperation with Stamford Hospital, we have arranged for the mobile clinic to provide free mammography as well as comprehensive cardiac screening to Town employees. At least one more free cardiac screening clinic is scheduled at the Town Hall on April 16. If there is interest in more clinics, there will be a \$75.00 fee.

5. Digital Health

Significant progress has been made in the development of our new comprehensive computer program. I am anticipating going live with the system in June. This will result a significant improvement in our time management, activity tracking and report writing capabilities.

6. Public Health Component of Emergency Preparedness

Continuing progress is being made with developing our “plan.” Our deadline for completion is August, in conjunction with the expiration date of our grant. I am absolutely confident we will meet that goal.

7. Prescription Monitoring Program

We have begun planning a collection day for unwanted and expired medication. There has been clear linkage established between improper disposal of medication and water contamination (and impacts on aquatic life) as well as improper use of prescribed medication by adolescents and teenagers. At this point, we are hoping to have this “day” in October and plan on a comprehensive advertising campaign targeting Darien residents.

8. Student Intern & Water Sampling

I am pleased to participate in the new high school intern program this year and plan on utilizing a student to collect water samples from our beaches from Memorial Day until the close of the school year. The purpose is to analyze the effects of precipitation and tides on water quality. This could be a valuable experience for the student especially since the Stamford Laboratory will allow the student to perform the laboratory work while providing us with baseline information which could impact decisions on determining when beaches should be closed (if ever).

Respectfully Submitted by David Knauf, Director of Health
March 31, 2010